

# THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

SERVICE NOTES AND NEWS



AIR MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

## VISCOUNT SWINTON

The Air Ministry announces:—

His Majesty the King has been pleased to approve the appointment of the Right Hon. Viscount Swinton, G.B.E., M.C., Secretary of State for Air, as Honorary Air Commodore of No. 608 (North Riding) (Bomber) Squadron, Auxiliary Air Force.

It is appropriate that the present Secretary of State should be appointed Hon. Air Commodore of this Squadron, in view of his connection with Yorkshire. Born in the county, Viscount Swinton has his home in and takes his title from the North Riding. No. 608 (North Riding) (Bomber) Squadron is stationed at Thornaby, near Middlesbrough.

It may be added that three former Secretaries of State have been appointed to similar rank in the Auxiliary Air Force; Capt. F. E. Guest, M.P., as Air Commodore of No. 600 (City of London) (Fighter) Squadron; Sir Samuel Hoare, M.P., as Air Commodore of No. 604 (County of Middlesex) (Fighter) Squadron, and the Marquess of Londonderry as Air Commodore of No. 607 (County of Durham) (Bomber) Squadron.

## HONOURS AND AWARDS

The following rewards in recognition of gallant and distinguished service rendered in connection with the Mohmand operations on the North West Frontier, India, during the period August 15-16 and October 15-16, 1935, were published in the *London Gazette* of May 8, 1936:—

### *Distinguished Service Order*

Sqn. Ldr. Kenneth Harries Riversdale-Elliot.

### *Distinguished Flying Cross*

Sqn. Ldr. Henry Frederick Vulliamy Battle, Flt. Lts. North Carter, and Arthur Francis Hutton.

### *Distinguished Flying Medal*

Sergt. (Pilot) Harold Constantine Smith, Cpl. Vincent Evan Morgan Watkins, L.A./C. (now Cpl.) Douglas Rupert Woolnough.

### *B.E.O. Medal (Mil.) for Meritorious Service*

Flt. Sergt. Raymond Stewart Robertson.

### *Mentions*

Wing Cdr. W. B. Farrington, D.S.O., Sqn. Ldrs. K. H. Riversdale-Elliot, J. MacG. Fairweather, D.F.C., H. P. Lloyd, M.C., D.F.C., R. T. B. Houghton, A.F.C., S. D. Culley, D.S.O., Sqn. Ldr. (now Wing Cdr.) P. F. Fullard, D.S.O., M.C., A.F.C., Flt. Lts. H. G. Brookman, (now Sqn. Ldr.) B. E. Embry, A.F.C., T. J. Arbutnot, E. C. Hudleston, F. G. H. Ewens, F/O R. S. Howe, Flt. Sergts. H. Wright, W. J. Ralphs, R. C. Drury, A. Fisher, Cpl. (now Acting Sergt. Paid) B. J. Brooks, L.A./Cs. E. W. Smith, (now Cpl.) J. H. Graham, J. A. Talkington.

## CHANGES IN TITLE

The following changes in title have been made with effect from May 1, 1936:—

| <i>Old Title</i> | <i>New Title</i>                 |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| No. 22 Group     | No. 22 (Army Co-operation Group) |
| No. 23 Group     | No. 23 (Training Group)          |

## No. 5 FLYING TRAINING SCHOOL, SEALAND

The undermentioned officers and airman pilots have been awarded special assessments as shown hereunder on completion of a course of *ab initio* flying training at No. 5 Flying Training School:—

### *Special Distinction*

A.P/O.s J. E. Cryer, J. B. Russell, A./Sergt. V. C. Otter.

### *Distinguished Pass*

A.P/O.s G. A. Corder, A. D. C. Fair, A. J. Trumble, A. W. Fletcher, J. Vivian, A./Sergts. S. G. Taylor, L. C. Boore.

## ELECTRICAL AND WIRELESS SCHOOL

The undermentioned officer is granted the symbol "S":—Flt. Lt. A. C. Watson.

## THE BRISTOL BLenheim

It is likely that the production-type Bristol Blenheim medium bomber (type 142M) will be fitted with two Bristol Mercury engines of the latest pattern, giving a normal output of 720 h.p. at 12,500 ft. and a maximum of 840 h.p. at 14,000 ft.

## R.A.F. DISPLAY STAFF

Air Vice-Marshal P. B. Joubert de la Ferté, C.M.G., D.S.O., commanding No. 11 (Fighter) Group, Uxbridge, will again act as A.O.C., Flying, at the R.A.F. Display on June 27, for the third year in succession.

Air Comdr. J. H. S. Tyssen, M.C., will be his chief staff officer, and Sqn. Ldr. G. Harcourt-Smith will serve as secretary to the A.O.C. Another member of the air staff of No. 11 Group, Group Capt. C. H. Nicholas, D.F.C., A.F.C., has been appointed chief aerodrome control officer, with Flt. Lt. A. R. Combe as his assistant.

## MEDICAL BRANCH CONSULTANTS

The vacancy in the post of consultant in medicine that will be caused by the forthcoming retirement of Group Capt. H. A. Treadgold, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.S., M.R.C.P., will be filled by the appointment of Wing Cdr. A. F. Rook, M.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H., with effect from May 18.

## SPECIALISATION OF OFFICERS AND EX-AIRMAN PILOTS

In order to meet requirements of the Royal Air Force in specialist officers, it has been found necessary to select for specialisation certain of the officers and ex-airman pilots selected for appointment to permanent commissions. The names of the officers so selected for specialisation will be announced in Air Ministry Orders in due course.

## STAFF COLLEGE INSTRUCTOR

Sqn. Ldr. W. F. Dickson, D.S.O., O.B.E., A.F.C., with acting rank as wing commander, becomes an instructor at the R.A.F. Staff College in succession to Wing Cdr. H. E. P. Wigglesworth. He graduated at the college in 1927-28, and afterwards served for five years in India. In the War he was an R.N.A.S. pilot, and while serving in H.M.S. *Furious* was awarded the D.S.O. for great skill and gallantry on a long-distance bombing raid. Later he carried out a large amount of experimental flying from carriers, and was awarded the Dunning Cup.

## FLYING ACCIDENT

The Air Ministry regrets to announce that, as the result of a collision in the air which occurred near Penang on May 23, between two aircraft of No. 36 (Torpedo Bomber) Squadron, Singapore, the following personnel are missing and believed to have been drowned: P/O William Mortimer Norman, Corpl. Frank Johnson, Aircraftman 1st Class Alexander French Wilson, Leading Aircraftman Sydney Cyril Hickson.

P/O Norman was the pilot of one aircraft. Sergt. Alec George Solis, the pilot of the other aircraft, is safe.

## R.A.F. BENEVOLENT FUND

The usual meeting of the Grants Committee was held at Idlesleigh House on Monday, May 18. Mr. W. S. Field was in the chair, and the other members present were: Mrs. L. M. K. Pratt Barlow, O.B.E., Group Capt. C. H. K. Edmonds, D.S.O., O.B.E., and Air Vice-Marshal C. A. H. Longcroft, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., A.F.C. The Committee made grants to the amount of £266 8s. 7d. The next meeting was fixed for June 4.